

VMFA-122 Commanding Officer – Substance Abuse Policy



This squadron's sole purpose is to deploy into combat, fight and win whenever our nation calls. From the World War II Pacific campaign, to Vietnam and the Global War on Terrorism, VMFA-122 has established a remarkable legacy of service to country and Corps. I am honored to command the best squadron in the Marine Corps.

My Vision

"Passionate and disciplined commitment to balanced excellence."

ZERO TOLERANCE!

Substance abuse includes the illegal use of a controlled substance, possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia, use of other substances (designer drugs [spice, bath salts, etc.], natural substances, chemicals, propellants, etc., with the intent to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the nervous system), **OR** the act of deceiving a urinalysis.

I am responsible for this squadron and its actions, I am accountable to the Commandant to ensure this squadron is combat ready, and the Marine Corps has provided me authorities to take care of Marine and Sailors under my command. I lose these authorities if a Marine or Sailor does drugs – I am responsible and accountable to the Marine Corps and our Naval Service to process you for mandatory separation.

Over the last six months on MCAS Beaufort there have been over 80 Marines prosecuted for drug use and processed for separation from the Marine Corps. I am on a **crusade** to keep this poison from infiltrating our ranks, and I call on every member of this squadron to join me. This crusade is four fold: (1) a mission of zero tolerance for every Marine; (2) aggressive urinalysis testing and inspections; (3) an engaged Substance Abuse Control Officer to facilitate self-referrals and drug and alcohol treatment; and (4) a just, fair and consistent approach that will include administrative separation **and** prosecution under the UCMJ. SECNAVINST 5300.28D Military Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, MCO P1700.24B Marine Corps Personal Services Manual and MCO P1900.16F Marine Corps Separation Manual are my orders for this crusade. In addition to every Marine's and Sailor's *passionate and disciplined commitment to balanced excellence*, the squadron SACO and MCCS resources (www.usmc-mccs.org/subabuse) are available to inform, assist and facilitate each of you in your engagement on this crusade.

For Officer's, SNCOs and NCOs of this squadron: *you* are responsible for your own actions and those of your Marines and Sailors, you are accountable to your Chain of Command, and you are provided authorities by me to take care of the Marines and Sailors assigned to you. My expectation is that you instill a climate of zero tolerance for drug abuse throughout this command.

For every Marine and Sailor: you are responsible for your own actions, you are accountable to your Chain of Command, and you have the authority to take care of yourself and those to your left and right. My expectation is that you provide a *firm hand of caution or quiet hand of comfort* to put in action the climate of zero tolerance for drugs in VMFA-122.

Semper Fidelis

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. E. Wiegel'.

Wade E. Wiegel

Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commanding